

2006 Indiana Torchbearers Award Winners



Finance: Janice Beesley, Vincennes

Nominated by Integra Bank, Vincennes University Foundation and Good Samaritan Hospital

Nominated by three different organizations, Janice Beesley is described as a woman who simply did not recognize barriers and "did not have a ceiling to her career achievements". A mother, a cancer survivor, a volunteer, and a woman who has sought out three major career changes, Ms. Beesley has made outstanding contributions to the financial industry (as former President & CEO of United Federal Savings and Loan, now Integra Bank), to health care (at Good Samaritan Hospital) and to secondary education (as a Director on the Vincennes University Board of Directors). In 1992, she was responsible for converting United Federal from a mutual charter to a stock institution, and was credited with saving many jobs, primarily held by women. In 1998, Ms. Beesley engineered the financial turn-around of the Nephrology Unit at Good Samaritan taking it from a loss to over \$1 million dollar profit per year. A colleague writes..."by her ability to balance a family and a career, she inspires others to raise the bar on their own goals, and her contributions to the finance industry have benefited the local and area communities, as well as the State. Her commitment to excellence is beyond measure."

Spirit of Hope: Kim Boyd, Indianapolis

Nominated by WorkOne, Indianapolis Eastside Office

Kim Boyd's background as a training advocate for Vincennes University Machine Trades program at Tech High School and her work as an employment and training advisor for the Homeless Initiative Project led her to the conclusion that even in a city rich with resources people in need were falling through the cracks. Ms. Boyd took the concept of "holistic" idealism and put it to work, bringing together a group of individuals and groups on a monthly basis to develop collaborations at the most basic grass roots level. The H.O.P.E Team, a growing "Volunteer Army" of 150 organizations is truly a group that **H**elping **O**thers **P**rosper **E**conomically. On their own time with no funding, this group, under Ms. Boyd's direction, has built a network where no one falls through the cracks. Ex-offenders, youth in crisis, recovering addicts who reach one team member can now reach the entire network. Ms. Boyd and the Team have been recognized by the City County Council and presented with the keys to the city by the Mayor's office. A colleague writes..."The founding of the H.O.P.E. Team has been monumental. I'm sure we have just seen the tip of the iceberg known to us as Kim Boyd!"

Human Rights: Mary Kay Budak, LaPorte

Nominated by: AARP

Mary Kay Budak's legislative service began during an era when the State was overwhelmingly male. In fact, Mary Kay was the only woman in her legislative freshman class of 1980. She overcame those obstacles to achieve leadership positions within her caucus, and to chair the House Family, Children and Human Affairs committee. "*Thank You Mary Kay*" began an editorial in the LaPorte Herald Argus: "While Budak did her share to improve Indiana's business climate, she concentrated mainly on legislation that protected and enhanced the well-being of kids and struggling families. That's quite a legacy to leave." For 26 years in the Indiana House of Representatives, Mary Kay Budak has been a consistent voice in support of those who often lack a voice in the halls of state politics, particularly children and seniors. Through her support of domestic violence legislation, healthcare for children, and prescription drug assistance for seniors, Mary Kay worked to ensure that vulnerable populations had a voice in the legislative process. By looking out for their needs, Mary Kay has made Indiana a better place in which to live, work, and raise a family, for even the neediest among us.

Trailblazer: Dr. Virginia Caine, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Krieg DeVault. LLP

Dr. Virginia Caine, Director of the Marion County Health Department, is nationally known as a pioneer in the field of HIV/AIDs and other sexually transmitted diseases. Locally, Dr. Caine and her 700 employees have battled high infant mortality rates, a syphilis epidemic in the county, citizen obesity and smoking rates as well

as an increasingly complex health landscape. A breaker of “glass-ceilings”, she has served as President of the American Public Health Association, the oldest and largest health professional organization in the world. Dr. Caine serves as a role model for women, particularly African American women, and her achievements and dedication to public health have torn down barriers to equality. A colleague writes “She cares deeply about public health issues and is tireless in her pursuit of a healthier population and the elimination of health disparities”

Heart of Indiana: Nickolette Clements, Elkhart

Nominated by: Youth Enhancement and Training Initiative, Inc.

All Nickolette Clements ever wanted was to be “Mom”, but she has ended up change the world, one child at a time. Biological mother to five, and step-mom to three, she has personally hosted nearly 100 children in foster care, from overnight to much longer. Infants, siblings, emotionally challenged and sexually abused teens have had loving intervention from Ms. Clements. Most extraordinary is the fact that she has never taken cash from any agency or source. When an unplanned divorce threatened to financially derail her personal mission, she became a real estate sales agent and was named “rookie of the year”. Her faith that she can break the cycle of neglect, poverty and abuse one child at time has been fulfilled in the success she has seen from her foster children. Ms. Clements is also involved with two overseas orphanages.

Philanthropy: Julie Davis, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Ice Miller, LLP

Julie Davis has worked with non-profit organizations and Indianapolis community leaders for over 16 years and her efforts have indeed, made her community a better place. In 2000, Ms. Davis co-founded the President's Roundtable, bringing together the presidents of 11 (now 20) organizations, including the Mayor's office, to share ideas, identify issues and gaps in services, and to leverage the strengths of the various organizations representing a volunteer base of 5,850 women and \$4M. Davis' dream to establish a residential training academy for young men at risk became a reality in 2006 with the opening of the Chrysalis Academy of Life and Learning. Her nominator writes “She personifies the ideal that together, women can accomplish great things”

Advocacy: Ann Delaney, Indianapolis

Nominated by: The Julian Center, Inc.

Ann Delaney is well-known as a trailblazer for her courage to accept challenging positions and for her determination for seeking equality for women. Her resume; founding partner of Delaney & Delaney, former head of the state Democratic party, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney and supervisor of the sex crimes unit in Marion County, Special Prosecutor for Tippecanoe County and author to mention a few is noteworthy. All of this culminated in the success Ann Delaney has had in taking over a small “underground” domestic violence shelter and transforming it into the nationally known powerhouse that The Julian Center has become. She is described as a “consistent and passionate advocate for women and children who are victims of abuse, violence and assault.” Under her leadership \$7.5M was raised for the construction and opening of the new shelter which provides safety and services for hundreds of women annually. Delaney gained national recognition for her development of an innovative model which brought law enforcement, prosecution and education together housed on-site at the facility.

Woman of Promise: Natasha Johns, Bedford

Nominated by: Bedford UEA

Natasha Johns, a young teacher just out of college, had a vision. She saw a need and pulled an entire community together to build the area's first completely handicapped accessible playground. Through grants and multiple fundraisers she raised \$60,000 and brought together over 100 volunteers to build the playground. It is next to a joint service center which serves special needs students from seven school districts and is also open to the public. “Natasha inspired our community. Through her vision and courage her leadership shone through to help us help some of our most disadvantaged residents”.

Woman in Government: The Honorable Connie Lawson, Danville

Nominated by: Women in Government

Senator Connie Lawson recently became the first woman to serve as the Senate Majority Floor Leader. During her 10 years in the state legislature she has earned a reputation as a passionate advocate for public health, a dedicated policymaker striving to improve the lives of her constituents and a committed leader. She has been a driving force, championing mental health and cervical cancer prevention, among a number of other important issues. She has also worked to promote Indiana's best practices as models for other states in the areas of health, education and childcare.

Keeper of the Light: Marissa Manlove, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Krieg DeVault, LLP

Marissa Manlove, Vice President of Consumer & External Relations for Noble of Indiana, was nominated, not for her work at Noble, but rather for extraordinary work on behalf of children and teens and their parents who are suffering from chemical addiction of substance abuse issues. In June 2001 Marissa and Kim Manlove lost their 16 year old son, David, through "huffing", the abuse of an inhalant. She took her own tragic experience and turned it into helping others cope with the disease of addiction as well as raising society's awareness of it". She and Kim have founded support groups and started an organization to raise money for parents who cannot afford chemical dependency treatment for their addicted children.

Community Spirit: Pat McQuade, South Bend

Nominated by: AAUW South Bend

Pat McQuade, an advanced practice registered nurse, has dedicated her life to serving others. Retiring from Memorial Hospital in 2003, she continues to be a tireless advocate for the poor, the uninsured and for the elderly. She has designed and implemented three residency programs for geriatric care and has coached families affected by the debilitating aspects of Parkinson's disease. As a state senate candidate in the 2006 election Pat McQuade pledged support to making comprehensive health care a reality for all Hoosiers.

Business: Patricia Miller, Fort Wayne

Nominated by: Vera Bradley Designs

Pat Miller co-founded the internationally known handbag and accessory manufacturer, Vera Bradley Designs 25 years ago on \$250. Based on three principles: 1) work with people you like, 2) make a decision you can live with in 10 minutes, 10 days and 10 years, and 3) give back) Vera Bradley became true Hoosier success story. Ms. Miller was named by Gov. Daniels as the first Secretary of Commerce and continues to serve her state through her leadership and time. Miller and co-founder Barbara Baekgaard founded the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer which has pledged over \$10M to the IU Cancer Center for breast cancer research.

Lifetime Achievement: Marjorie O'Laughlin, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Krieg DeVault, LLP

Marge O'Laughlin is a role model for women and a pioneer in the political arena of Indianapolis. Her career in politics began in 1967 when she first ran for public office as the running mate for Senator Richard Lugar. It culminated in her two terms as Treasurer for the State of Indiana (1986 – 1994). As Clerk of the Indiana Supreme Court and State Treasurer, Ms. O'Laughlin rose to positions of great influence and power in worlds primarily dominated by men – politics and finance. Her success and rise to influence is made even more astounding by the fact that she was a single mother of 7 children who she raised alone without the assistance of child support. Marge O'Laughlin is making news. On January 2 she was sworn in by Gov. Mitch Daniels as interim state treasurer, a post she will hold until the newly elected treasurer takes office in February.

Health, Medicine and Life Sciences: Dr. Ora Pescovitz, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Ice Miller LLP

Dr. Ora Pescovitz is the President and CEO of Riley Hospital for Children one of the nation's premier children's hospitals. Riley Hospital's core mission in clinical care, research, education and advocacy has been greatly enhanced under Dr. Pescovitz's able leadership. A professor of pediatrics as well as cellular and integrative

physiology, Dr. Pescovitz specializes in disorders of growth and puberty and has published over 170 manuscripts focusing on this area. In addition to her leadership role at Riley and involvement in numerous community groups, Dr. Pescovitz continues to see young patients in her specialty of endocrinology, growth and development.

Education: Beverly Pitts, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Youth Institute

The highest levels of post-secondary education in Indiana have been predominantly dominated by men for the past 200 years, which makes Dr. Beverly Pitt's role as the first woman president of the University of Indianapolis most notable. Her path from classroom teacher to professor to administrator to president of a university, while raising a family and actively serving her community, has opened the door and broadened the field of dreams for current and upcoming generations of women. Her nominator writes, "Dr. Pitts is a role model of strong and compassionate leadership."

Sports & Fitness: Rita Price Simpson, Mentone

Nominated by: Nontraditional Employment for Women (N.E.W.) Workshop Committee

A true pioneer in the field of broadcasting, Rita Price Simpson was the first women's basketball on-air announcer in the State of Indiana. Beginning her radio career selling ads for radio sports programs, she progressed to on-air interviews and soon began doing commentary for the games. When Warsaw won the first girls ISHAA state title in 1976 Simpson's career as a sports commentator was assured. Simpson now does commentary for around 65 sporting events a year and was recently inducted into the Indiana Broadcasters Hall of Fame. Her "*I can do that!*" attitude still impacts those around her.

Social Services: Rebecca Pryor, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Lake Superior Court Civil Division

Labeled "the Godmother" of Indiana's Court Appointed Special Advocate/ Guardian Ad Litem programs by those in the field of child protection and family services, Becky Pryor has devoted her career to public service and advocacy for those most in need. After lobbying for 25 years on behalf of abused and neglected children and at-risk youth, Ms. Pryor shifted gears to develop programs to help senior citizens and incapacitated adults. Through her efforts the 2004 Volunteer Advocates for Seniors and the 2006 Volunteer Advocates for Incapacitated Adults legislation was enacted and the programs she developed were successfully implemented. The benefit of her work is immeasurable.

Business: Joyce Rogers, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Black Expo

As President/CEO of Indiana Black Expo, Joyce Rogers manages the operations of the State's oldest and most viable not-for-profit minority organizations. More than just an Expo once a year, this organization has 12 chapters and is noted for its youth technology programs. In the 1990s Ms. Rogers distinguished herself as the visionary leader of both the State's "Step Ahead" and "Healthy Families Indiana" programs and later as Director of Contract Management for FSSA. "She has shown that a leader with vision can achieve success in the three very different arenas of for-profit, government and non-profit work."

Law: Dawn Rosemond, Fort Wayne

Nominated by: Barnes & Thornburg, LLP

Dawn Rosemond, at age 35, is Fort Wayne's (and possibly Indiana's) first African-American female to rise through the ranks to become partner in a large law firm. She is a trusted and accomplished attorney with years of experience in commercial litigation, premises liability and intellectual property. Named one of the "Future 40" by Fort Wayne's Channel 21 Women in Leadership series, Ms. Rosemond serves as a role model to law students and associates across the state. She has achieved outstanding professional success while balancing work with a family (sons ages 1 and 4) while continuing to support her community and her church through volunteer efforts.

Entrepreneurship: Jennifer Ruby, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Indiana Leadership Forum, Inc

A successful attorney who has built a large clientele base and her own law firm, Jennifer Ruby is known as a young professional who reaches out to others. Lauded for her community involvement and willingness to help other women professionals, Ruby developed "Finances 101", a program designed to teach young professionals to prepare for their future now. She has brought in accountants and financial planners to present this free, three-part seminar once a year. This seminar series has become so successful among the young professional community (as well as with the partners she brings in to present) that Ms. Ruby is considering making it a non-profit corporation in 2008.

Journalism and Communications: Glenda Russell, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Ice Miller, LLP

Glenda Russell, publisher of the Indiana Lawyer, Indiana's first independent newspaper focused on the legal community, is also the co-founder of the highly respected Women in Law Conference. This conference is forum for women attorneys from throughout the state to gather for personal and professional purposes. Ms. Russell is also noted for her work as publisher of the Indianapolis Prime Time (geared to age 55 and over) and the Indianapolis Senior Expo a free annual event offering health screenings and info for seniors. "Integrity, fairness, and accuracy in reporting while creating a forum for the minority point of view to be heard" are characteristics attributed to Russell by those who know her.

Agriculture: Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, Bedford

Nominated by: Ice Miller, LLP

Becky Skillman made history on January 10, 2005 when she was sworn in as the first woman ever elected Lieutenant Governor of Indiana. Growing up in Indiana, she has been an advocate for funding rural development and agricultural initiatives and again made history in April 2005 when Governor Daniels appointed her the first ever Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development in the State. "Agriculture is Indiana's first industry" Skillman remarked, and began to help Indiana compete globally in bio-products and home-grown products such as corn, soybeans and even Indiana-produced wine. Her nominator writes Lt. Gov Skillman has spent a lifetime committed to making Indiana a better place to live, work and raise a family. She serves as a role model for young women considering politics as a career and is a voice for the underserved throughout Indiana."

Volunteerism: Phyllis Thompson, Fort Wayne

Nominated by: AAUW, Indianapolis

As a retired teacher, Phyllis Thompson's love of children draws her to activities like the Limberlost Girl Scout Council and her church's Learning Ministry. Her personal family circumstances have drawn her to her work with the Alzheimer's Association where she serves as support group leader, on the Board of Directors and as planner for the annual Memory Walk. But Ms. Thompson's *fifty year* passion has been focused on equity for women and girls. A long-term member of American Association of University Women (AAUW), Thompson has served on the national, state and local level as an officer and board director. In 1979 she created a trust within AAUW to fund educational and community projects consistent with equity for women.

Entrepreneurship: Kristen Tucker, Evansville

Nominated by: ANEW, A Network of Evansville Women

As a child Kristen Tucker made herself "editor" of a neighborhood magazine she created. She grew up loving books and magazines never dreaming she would one day be the Vice President of a publishing group and editor of an award-winning magazine, Evansville Living. Others in the Evansville area had tried and failed, but Ms. Tucker had faith that a high-quality magazine could make it. Growing a publishing group and a new magazine (as well as two babies) kept Kristen busy, but she and husband Todd persevered and with a predominantly female staff now publish nine magazines including Evansville Business and flagship magazine, Evansville Living. She empowers Evansville to "be the best we can be".

Sports & Fitness: Susan Williams, Indianapolis

Nominated by: Ice Miller LLP

Susan Williams, President of the Indiana Sports Corporation (ISC), has led a distinguished career ranging from teaching to the Indianapolis City County Council to state government, where as Executive Director of the Indiana State Building Commission, she oversaw the design and construction of the Indiana State Museum and the NCAA headquarters and Hall of Champions. Among her most notable accomplishments as head of the ISC, Williams has brought the Big Ten Men's and Women's Basketball tournaments as well as the NCAA's Women's Final Four to Indianapolis helping further position Indiana as the premiere sports capitol of the world.



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